

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CU-02 SSO-00 DODE-00 INRE-00
NSC-05 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11332

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO CSCE GW
SUBJECT: CSCE: FRG REQUEST FOR US DENIAL OF ALLEGED
DIFFERENCES WITH ALLIES OVER HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: A. STATE 158574; B. STATE 149820

1. FRG OFFICIALS ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT CONTINUING
PRESS REPORTS IN THE FRG ALLEGING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
THE US AND THE ALLIES OVER THE APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS
AT BELGRADE AND HAVE ASKED US TO ISSUE A DENIAL IN
WASHINGTON. FOREIGN OFFICE STATE SECRETARY VAN WELL
MADE SUCH A REQUEST JULY 7 TO THE DCM, ADDING THAT HE
UNDERSTOOD AMBASSADOR SHERER HAD IN FACT ISSUED A
DENIAL IN BELGRADE BUT THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN PICKED UP
BY THE GERMAN PRESS. PURSUANT TO VAN WELL'S
REQUEST, WE TELEPHONED BELGRADE AND LEARNED THAT
SHERER HAD GIVEN AN APPROPRIATE DENIAL TO DEUTSCHLANDFUNK.

2. TODAY, FONOFF CSCE DIRECTOR JOETZE TOLD US THAT THE
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DENIAL CARRIED BY RADIO WAS NOW "DEAD" AND THAT GENSCHER
PREFERRED TO HAVE A WRITTEN DENIAL CARRIED BY THE
PRESS. ACCORDINGLY, JOETZE HAS INSTRUCTED THE FRG
DELEGATION TO SEND A GERMAN CORRESPONDENT TO
SHERER AGAIN FOR SUCH A STATEMENT.

3. JOETZE ALSO EMPHASIZED TO US THAT THE FRG WOULD

PREFER ABOVE ALL A DENIAL ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID THE STRONGER THE DENIAL THE BETTER.

4. THE LATEST SUCH REPORT ON THE DIFFERING US AND ALLIED APPROACHES ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WAS CONTAINED IN THE JULY 7 ISSUE OF DIE ZEIT, IN WHICH THEO SOMMER WROTE THAT US NEGOTIATORS IN BELGRADE HAVE "LOUDLY COMPLAINED ABOUT "EROSION OF WEST EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR A COMMON ATTITUDE ON HUMAN RIGHTS." SOMMER ADDED THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, WHO HAD A MANDATE FROM THE BUNDESRAT TO DISCUSS THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM WITH THE PRESIDENT DURING HIS VISIT NEXT WEEK, "WILL HAVE TO SET RIGHT A FEW THINGS IN THE WHITE HOUSE." THE FONOFF TELLS US THAT THE NEW YORK TIMES ON JULY 7 ALSO CARRIED AN ARTICLE ON DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE US DELEGATION AND OTHER WESTERN DELEGATIONS IN BELGRADE.

5. THUS FAR THE EMBASSY HAS HAD NO INQUIRIES FROM THE PRESS ON THIS MATTER.

6. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT VON STADEN HAS TWICE RAISED CSCE MATTERS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST RECENTLY. SENIOR FRG OFFICIALS ARE OBVIOUSLY MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS OF THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE AND ARE HIGHLY SENSITIVE TO ANY REAL OR IMAGINED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND CONFIDENTIAL

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GERMAN DELEGATIONS. SO THAT THE EMBASSY CAN BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO ANTICIPATE AND ASSESS FRG CONCERNS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INCLUDED AS AN "INFO" ADDRESSEE ON RELEVANT REPORTING CABLES FROM THE DELEGATION, IN ADDITION TO THOSE REPORTS SENT TO THE CSCE COLLECTIVE ADDRESSEES.
STOESSEL

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